

ABSTRACT

A system, method and computer readable medium containing programming
structions for an improved latch mechanism for use in a programming environment running
concurrent tasks is disclosed. According to one aspect of the present invention, a latch is
5 provided to a first task which is requesting access to a resource. After such access, the first
task holds the latch, which is also released from the first task. The first task holding the
latch marks the latch stealable, and if the latch is not marked stolen by another task, the first
task can mark the latch unstealable. In another embodiment of the present invention, if the
first task is provided a latch marked stealable, the resource associated with the stealable
10 latch will be placed in a consistent state before the first task accesses the resource.

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